WordWorks Newsletters

For years now, I have archived my WordWorks Newsletters on the Real Spellers website that acted as a scholarly community hub for those of us working with Real Spelling and SWI - long before Facebook existed.

With all the growing FB SWI based groups, Real Spellers stopped getting enough regular postings and discussions to warrant the work to keep it going, and it was finally retired at the beginning of April 2023.

There are many lost resources as a result, but my Newsletters and other pdf resources I archived there and in many of my posts still exist, but I need to revamp my website to properly archive them. I know that's going to take some time, so in the meantime, I'm using this document as a place where people can find the most recent ones and some of my favourites from the more distant past.

Note Real Spellers is NOT the Real Spelling Tool Box 2 resource (that is still running https://www.tbox2.com)

Until I fix my website and create a better system here are links to Newsletters you may find interesting to explore…

WW Newsletter #109
Resources & stories from my return to in-person public workshops and conferences

Pete Bowers, Dec 30, 2022:

WW Newsletter #108
Special issue on how some teachers can have a transformational effect on students with their first attempts teaching SWI

Pete Bowers, Sept 13, 2022:

WW Newsletter #107
Highlighting a new generation of leaders in SWI

Pete Bowers, May 19, 2022

WW Newsletter #106
Joyful stories of learning through SWI

Pete Bowers, Feb 28, 2022 (updated March 7)

WordWorks Newsletter #105
SWI in 2021 goes out with a bang!

Pete Bowers**,** Dec, 2021

WordWorks Newsletter #104
The challenge of challenging long-held assumptions

Pete Bowers, Sept 23, 2021

Below are some favourites from farther back…

WordWorks Newsletter #102
Salute to William Van Cleave: A tragic early loss of a good friend, a scholar, gentleman, and delightful goofball (and much more)

Pete Bowers, April 29, 2021

Especially valuable for anyone who knew William, but also rich for those who didn't. William's evolution into SWI is really inspiring.

WordWorks Newsletter #100

The Real Spelling Tool Box 2 now On-Line & Special publication on the "inquiry" of structured word inquiry

Pete Bowers, Sept 17, 2020

This one addresses the seminal role of Real Spelling for the whole SWI community. I first encountered Real Spelling, and the first tool box in 2001 when teaching overseas.

This topic of the "inquiry" of structured word inquiry is also a crucial one that I will return to frequently.

WordWorks Newsletter #99

The climate crisis -- a sad but rich context for orthographic inquiry

Pete Bowers, April 2020

This was one of Matt Berman's (Real Spellers webmaster) favourites. This one highlights using SWI to deepen understanding of other content areas. Tons of free resources.

WordWorks Newsletter #96

SWI Wolfe Island Retreat leads to reframing of teacher training

Peter Bowers, Jan, 2019 (with Dr. Katherine Hastings)

In this newsletter, Dr Katherine Hastings describes her experience at one of my Wolfe Island Courses and how it transformed her teacher training the next year to great effect. (See the excellent article she and one of her students from that first year published in 2021 **HERE**)

WordWorks Newsletter #95

SWI in the Early Years — including blog from pre-school class of Carolee Fucigna

This issue highlights a blog post from Carolee's class that we got permission to make public. The stories and resources from this blog are amazing. There is much more in that Newsletter on this topic of Early SWI.

WordWorks Newsletter #82 Special Issue

Structure Is Freeing Once You See It -- Reflecting on learning through SWI at Nueva

Pete Bowers, August 18, 2016

This is one highlights a metaphor for learning that I think is particularly rich in general, and very illuminating of learning in SWI.

WordWorks Newsletter #76

The Getting Started Issue

Pete Bowers, Oct 2014

This one has many resources for getting started with SWI including a great story of a teacher investigating "migration" on his very first try after a very short introduction.

WordWorks Newsletter #63:

A challenge to build spelling and word <knowledge> around the world

Peter Bowers, February 19, 2011

This Newsletter provides teachers with resources and ideas for teaching about aspects of morphology, etymology and phonology all building from the family of the base <know>. The idea was to inspire a school to have kids from kinder and up all teach about orthographic concepts related to this family at the same time.

And some favourite “Special Publications”

1) **Stories of transformational learning through SWI from teachers/tutors in their first attempt at an SWI lesson after as little as the first session of one of my on-line courses**

   - ✦ Click **HERE** for this story: A frustrated 9-year old dyslexic finally gets traction with English spelling when his tutor changes gears to great effect an they go on the hunt for suffixes
   - ✦ Click **HERE** for this story: A 7-year old dyslexic and his tutor new to SWI are determined to make sense of English spelling
     Pete Bowers March 5, 2022

2) Click **HERE** for this Special WW Publication:
   How do I “Integrate” SWI with my other literacy instruction practices? Pete Bowers, January 15, 2017

   I wrote this piece as a response for the common question mentioned in the title.

3) Click **HERE** for this Special WW Publication:
   But what if they’re not reading yet? Rebecca Loveless, a Tutor at the Nueva School, describes the transformation of a Grade 1 student through Structured Word Inquiry
   Rebecca Loveless, January 12, 2015

   This is a particularly important introduction to this common question.

4) Click **HERE** for this Special WW Publication:
   Charlie & Pete’s investigation of <durable>: A launching pad for a systemic understanding of spelling that endures
   Pete Bowers, Oct 7, 2022
   Learn with a Grade 2 student making sense of the spelling-meaning connections of words with bound bases.

5) Click **HERE** for this Special WW Publication:
   Charlie and Carinne’s Quest for the jobs of the "final, non-syllabic <e>!” with an intro of learning letter names by studying morphemes
   This is a double post that is one of my favourites of how different SWI with young children can be - especially for those who struggle.

6) Click **HERE** for this Special WW Publication:
   The Challenge of challenging long-held assumptions
   This is an important topic to keep in mind when working with kids. They do not have not concretized assumptions about orthography for nearly as long as we adults!

That is more than enough for one post! You might want to copy this text and the links and paste in to a document. I know how long it takes me to update my website!

Cheers, Pete